2305 Teton RD Birmingham, AL 35216-3833 25 28 '00 JAN -6 AN :05

December 4, 1999

Jane E. Henney FDA Commissioner 5600 Fishers Lane Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Madam:

As an infection control practitioner in a major health system I am confronted daily by the problems created for our institution and our patients by drug-resistant organisms. Our patients and their families are negatively impacted by infections with these organisms. Effective antibiotic arsenals for treating these infections are being depleted, with few new antibiotics on the horizon.

Our nation must take aggressive actions to prevent the increased pain, suffering and costs caused by these devastating drug-resistant infections. Because antibiotic use for livestock contributes to drug resistance, livestock producers must not routinely add medically important antibiotics to animal feed to promote growth. Americans have always been a creative people. I am certain that our livestock producers can find creative and effective alternatives to medically important antibiotics to promote growth.

Sincerely,

Mariann Schmitz

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